

NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 1987

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Nite-Times News is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. It is available as a Public Domain feature of the Nite Owl Special BBS. If you are not a CATUG member and desire to have a hard-copy mailed to your home, please provide \$6.00 per year to cover the cost of postage. The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, leave email at the Nite Owl Special BBS to Gary Lessenberry (ID30) or write to:

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group
Nite-Times News Editor
1885A Yorktown Avenue
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088.

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Articles that appear in this issue are:

The Software Exchange
The CATUG Software Library
On The QL
Hardcopy Program
Telecommuter's Corner
Nite-Times Classifieds
November CATUG Meeting
Timex Tidbits
Timex/Sinclair BBS Directory

THE SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

This is a new monthly feature where you the Timexer may now programming ideas about on an open forum. You don't have to be a programming whiz, just a Timexer with an idea. Once

it's posted, the other readers with a little more know-how and experience can respond. I've found that Timexers have a pretty tight community, and when one expresses a need for help, many others rise to his assistance.

THE CATUG SOFTWARE LIBRARY

by Pete Fischer

A proposed structure of the CATUG library was recently given informal approval by the membership. The following represents a "Clarification" of envisioned goals. Any and all comment, feedback or help is welcome.

The C.A.T.U.G. Library will attempt to do the following:

1. We hope to provide the maximum amount of Public Domain software to any and all T/S computerists who desire it. This is the true spirit in which "Public Domain Software" was conceived in the early days of the Micro Revolution, and if ever there was a group of...shall we say "budget minded"...users, then T/S users would naturally fall at the top of the list.

2. We intend to maintain 2 catalogs. LIST "A" will be a listing of all current holdings by the CATUG Library. Along with the program title and hopefully author, will be a short description of the program, it's length and what category it falls into (see paragraph 5). There will also be Category Lists showing, for example, a list of all UTILITY programs currently held and on which CATUG Volume they may be found.

LIST "B" will be a Universal catalog of all files known to exist, whether held by our library or not. The two lists will cover five types, T/S 1000, T/S 2068, Spectrum, QL and some CP/M.

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THE CATUG SOFTWARE LIBRARY

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LIST "A" will be carefully maintained and up-to-date as new files are acquired. It will be available according to the terms in paragraph 9. LIST "B" will always be incomplete, due to the tens of 1,000's of files that could be listed. It is in it's infancy and not available for distribution for some time.

3. FORMATS: In early stages, all the 1000, 2068 & Spectrum files will be available on Tape only. Future plans may include JLO, AERCO and LARKEN disk formats. CP/M files will only be available in MORROW MD-3 format on 5 1/4" DS/DD disks. For QL files, consult QL Librarian, (currently Butch Weinberg).

4. Some files, such as Text files, RLE graphics and Buffer saves may be somewhat universal (i.e. could be loaded into ANY of the above mentioned machines.) These will be available in the format first received, but may be transferred later.

5. CATEGORIES: All files will be classified into the following categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.(GN) General interest | 8.(GR) Graphics Programs |
| 2.(GM) Games | 9.(TL) Telecommunications |
| 3.(UT) Utilities | 10.(BF) Buffers (T/S BBS') |
| 4.(DM) Demos | 11.(CP) CP/M |
| 5.(MS) Math & Science | 12.(AI) Artificial Intelligence |
| 6.(TX) Text Files | 13.(64) OS-64 programs |
| 7.(RL) RLE's & SCREEN's | |

6. Most Public Domain collections (I've seen Apple, Atari & CP/M the same) are on a "here's-the-file-good-luck" basis. The CATUG collection will attempt to go one step further by providing the LIST "A" mentioned above and, when needed, additional "DOC" files or instructions to aid the user in understanding the program. Also, every possible effort will be made to give credit to the original programmer(s).

7. The primary inspiration for our library comes from the LIST group (Long Island Sinclair Timex), and we also plan to use their system of charges. Preparation of library materials for distribution is a time-consuming task. Consequently, no user may request a single file from the library, but must instead, obtain the entire volume in which the desired file is found. To obtain this volume, there are 2 methods: if the user can donate a program, SCREEN\$ or text file not already in the collection, they should SAVE that file to a high quality cassette (TDK, BASF, SONY, MAXELL, Etc.) and submit that tape, along with \$3 (payable to CATUG). The submitted tape must be the same length as the desired volume. If the user has no such file, they can simply pay \$6 and no cassette.

8. Library Tapes and/or Disks will be available at the CATUG meetings, or by mail from Mike Potter or Pete Fischer.

9. A hardcopy is available of the current LIST "A". This is free to CATUG members or non-members who donate a file. A nominal fee of \$1 is required from those non-members simply requesting a copy which is deductible from the \$3/\$6 fee of ordering a tape.

Some text files and selected program listings available in Hardcopy. Please see the catalog for these.

The primary reason for this system is to assure the continued growth of both the library and the CATUG organization itself.

10. No commercial software WHATSOEVER, shall be distributed and/or traded through the CATUG library. We respect the efforts of any and all programmers who support our orphan machines, and have NO DESIRE to diminish their numbers.

Please take these articles into consideration and give what suggestions or further thoughts you may have. Hopefully, a free tape and preliminary LIST "A" will be available for those attending the next CATUG meeting.

ON THE QL

By Butch Weinberg

I have recently accepted the responsibilities of librarian for the CATUG QL public domain software library. Well, I figure that I had better let everybody know how we can make it work for all of us.

1. If you want to know what is in the library (which only is limited to a few cartridges at this point), just send a SASE to me and I will send a printout of the cartridge directories.
2. If you want any software from the QL Library, just send blank cartridge with a list of the programs that you want with return postage.
3. To add programs to the library, simply send them on a cartridge with a note that there are programs to be donated. If possible, please provide program docs on a Quill file. I will provide the return postage. So you may take advantage of the situation and request programs be sent on the return cartridge. I will also send the updated lists along with any mail I send to you

* * * * *

SuperBasic and British Quirks:

For those of you who like me have come to the QL from the TS-2068, something that will probably drive you nuts (until you get use to it) is trying to combine two strings. On the TS-2068, we just said "LET A\$=B\$+C\$" etc. However, that statement won't work with the QL. For the QL, replace the "+" with an "&". The statement would now read "LET A\$=B\$&C\$" etc.

Gary informed me that when you are typing in listings from British programs and you see "" between a PRINT or INPUT and a channel you must replace it with "#" for the instruction to work. Both "" and "#" are called the pound sign (I prefer to call "#" the number symbol).

I found another little goodie in the QL Handbook. Do you remember how you had to say "IF G\$="Y" or G\$="Y" " as a conditional statement on the TS-2068? The QL will check bo" (continued on page 3)

ON THE QL

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lower and upper case letters on a conditional statement.

There is one last item. The vertical (up and down) line (shifted rev slash)(top left key), when typed twice will replace "OR" in a program statement.

Well, that's all for now. I hope to have something new for next month!

HARDCOPY (A QL Utility)

By Al Feng

One of the first things you may have noticed missing in SuperBASIC is LLIST. Nonetheless, there are a few ways to make a "hardcopy" of your SuperBASIC program. For example, you can OPEN a channel for your printer, and LIST to that channel (OPEN#5, ser1: LIST#5). Or, you can utilize either the COPY or COPY_N command (COPY mdv\filename TO ser1). Alternatively, you can generate a hardcopy of a SuperBASIC program listing by creating an nnnnn_imp file from your 'nnnnn' program (COPY mdv\filename TO mdv\filename_imp), importing into QUILL (by line), and then printing your filename_doc.

This program displays a directory from which a "hardcopy" can be generated from either a SuperBASIC program listing or .ny ASCII file which you may have. The program utilizes the COPY_N command of SuperBASIC, and should be a convenient way for you to LLIST your programs by saving you the effort of typing in SuperBASIC commands, and/or bypassing the creation of an import file, and use of QUILL. A maximum of 76 files are displayed by the directory (not as many as you may have on a floppy, but many more than you can fit on a microdrive cassette).

* * * PROGRAM NOTES * * *

For people who use floppy disk drives, simply change mdv to flp in the following lines: 180, 190, 200, 210, 240, 370, and 520.

Lines 120 to 160: The screen is set up for a monitor. It is set up to accomodate an 80 column composite monitor (which I use), and may be smaller than your display. Of course, you can eliminate or change the parameters of lines 120 thru 160 to suit your own taste. Individuals using the television mode, and mode 8 will have to make adjustments to the print lines.

Line 170: Sets the printer parameters (you should not need to change this line).

Line 190 to 360: Sets up the screen display. Line 200 and 260 determine the number of available files. If none of your files have names longer than 8 characters, you can change the second number in line 200 to a lesser number (e.g., 11).

Line 370: Displays the "help" window.

Line 380: Screen "logo".

Line 390 to 460: Requests function (QUIT, DRIVE #, PRINT).

Line 470 to 480: Exit/clear program.

Line 490 to 510: "Mis-key" trap.

Line 520: Print (COPY_N) command.

* * * PROGRAM LISTING * * *

```

100 REMARK HARDCOPY
110 REMARK by Alphonso Feng, 03 August 1987
120 OPEN#10,SCR_460X14a30X0:PAPER#10,7:INK#10,4:BORDER#10,1,7
130 OPEN#10,SCR_512X16a0X240:PAPER#11,7:INK#11,4:BORDER#11,1,7
140 OPEN#12,SCR_30X240a0X0:PAPER#12,7
150 OPEN#13,SCR_30X240a482X0:PAPER#13,7
160 MODE 4, WINDOW 455,226,30,14:PAPER 7: BORDER 1,4
170 dev$="ser1":drives$="1":flag=0:pset=0:skipc=0:speed=9600
180 CLS: INK#2,0:PRINT#2,\" PRINT from mdv";drives$;"_":
INK#2,2
190 DIM dir$(76,15):DELETE mdv\dirf
200 OPEN_NEW #6,mdv\dirf
210 DIR #6, "mdv" & drives$ & "_"
220 PRINT #6
230 CLOSE #6
240 OPEN_IN #7, mdv\dirf
250 FOR c=0 TO 76
260 INPUT #7,dir$(c)
270 IF dir$(c)="-----" THEN EXIT c
280 END FOR c
290 CLOSE #7
300 c=c-1
310 AT 1,19: PRINT dir$(0),,,,PRINT dir$(1)
320 AT 3,0:CLS 2
330 FOR n=1 TO c-1
340 PRINT "[ "; CHR$(n+48)!
350 PRINT "] "; CHR$(n+1),
360 END FOR n
370 CLS#10:PRINT#10,\" [0] mdv2, [.] mdv1, [/] QUIT,
< PREFIX > TO ";UNDER#10,1;:PRINT#10\"PRINT";:UNDER#10, 0
380 INK 4: AT 1, 35:PRINT " -- HARDCOPY -- ": INK 0
390 REPEAT key
400 hit=CODE(INKEY$)
410 IF hit>45 AND hit<128 THEN EXIT key
420 END REPEAT key
430 hit=hit-48
440 IF hit=-2 THEN
450 IF drive$>1 THEN drive$=drive$-1:GO TO 180
460 END IF
470 IF hit=-1 THEN CLS: PRINT\\,,, "READY TO CLEAR
PROGRAM\\,,, HIT <ANYKEY> TO EXIT\\,,,[CTRL+SPACE] FOR
BASIC":PAUSE: NEW
480 IF NOT hit THEN
490 drive$=drive$+1
500 GO TO 180
510 ELSE
520 IF hit<c THEN COPY_N "mdv" & drives$ & "_" & dir$(hit+1) TO
dev$
530 GO TO 320
540 END IF

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TELECOMMUTER'S CORNER

By Gary Lessenberry

This month I am providing a short explanation about PC Pursuit. Many of you have heard people mention PC Pursuit or PCP as I like to call it, but there isn't much info available about it. Basically, PCP is an enhanced long distance service for telecommunications only. By enhanced, I mean that you call a PC Pursuit main terminal in your local area and then PCP provides the long distance service. PCP uses Telenet which has access terminals in hundreds of cities.

There is a one-time \$25 registration fee for PC Pursuit. You must have a major credit card to sign up for PC Pursuit. For a monthly charge of \$25 you can make an unlimited number of data connections on weeknights (from 6 pm to 7 am) and all day on weekends and holidays. You can also use PC Pursuit during the day for \$10.50 - \$14 per hour. All PC Pursuit charges are billed directly to your MasterCard, VISA, or American Express account.

Perhaps, nobody has as much to gain from PCP as does the average Timexer. The Timex supporting Bulletin Board Systems are spread throughout the nation. At least twelve of those systems are accessible via PCP. Thus, for \$25.00 per month, you can maintain active contact with other Timexer's nationwide as well as upload and download public domain software from Timex supporting Bulletin Board Systems in each PC Pursuit city that would be too expensive via conventional telephone service.

You can also use PCP to place direct calls to another Timexer who owns a modem. You must realize that PCP is for data telecommunications only. So if you call somebody with your modem and he answers via voice, he will hear nothing and PCP will inform you that there is either no answer or the line was busy. Therefore, it is important to coordinate your calls to another user before executing them. This could be accomplished by leaving a date and time that you plan to call on a local BBS that he accesses on a regular basis. Or perhaps by calling him collect and having him refuse the charges, he then would know that you would be placing a follow up call via PCP and he could get his computer set-up to receive the call.

The following 25 cities are currently accessible via PC Pursuit:

404 Atlanta	617 Boston
312 Chicago	216 Cleveland
214 Dallas	303 Denver
313 Detroit	818 Glendale
713 Houston	213 Los Angeles
305 Miami	414 Milwaukee
612 Minneapolis	201 Newark
212 New York	602 Phoenix
215 Philadelphia	503 Portland
919 Research Triangle Park	801 Salt Lake City
415 San Francisco	408 San Jose
206 Seattle	813 Tampa
202 Washington, DC	

The following are a few telephone numbers that you may use to get more information about PC Pursuit:

1-800-835-3638 (voice)- PCP Information & Registration
1-800-835-3001 (modem)- PC Pursuit 800 Info BBS. It also has online registration for PC Pursuit service.

1-800-424-9494 (modem)-Set your parameters to 7-E-1. When you get this system online, enter 3 carriage returns, and enter your area code and local exchange. Then at the "@" prompt - type: MAIL (cr)

USERNAME: Phones

PASSWORD: Phones

Unfortunately, the FCC has a proposal to impose access charges on enhanced service providers. To put this in simple terms, when you call a local Telenet PCP access terminal, you only pay the cost of a local call. Well, the FCC considers this as taking unfair advantage of your local phone service. If this proposal is approved, there would be a \$4.47 per hour access charge everytime that you used PCP. This works out to about seven cents per minute. These additional charges would be paid to your local phone company. Needless to say, when you add these access charges to the \$25.00 per month user fee, PCP will not be a very good bargain for anybody. However, this will probably be approved unless there is a strong write-in campaign against it. The address to write to are provided below. Ensure that on the letter you indicated that the subject is CC Docket 87-215. The letters must be sent prior to 26 October 1987.

The Honorable Dennis Patrick

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

Washington, DC 20554

If you have any additional questions about CC Docket 87-215, or if you wish to lobby any opinion to the FCC, I suggest that you call one of the following FCC Commissioners:

Chairman Dennis Patrick	202-632-6600
Commissioner James Quello	202-632-7557
Commissioner Mini Dawson	202-632-6446
Commissioner Patricia Dennis	202-632-6996

NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

The Nite-Times Classified Ads are a service provided to all of our readers. Please submit your ads prior to the 15th of each month. They may be mailed to the Nite-Times News or sent to Gary Lessenberry (ID30) via email on the Nite-Owl Special BBS (312) 459-5721

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FOR SALE

TS-1500 Computer with manual for \$45.00

Contact: Gary Lessenberry

1885A Yorktown Ave

Great Lakes, IL 60088

312/473-9415

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NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

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FOR SALE

ZX80 computer w/manual

ZX81 computer (composite video & 2 amp power supply) w/manual

Parrot Speech Synthesizer Module w/manual and tape program

Full size keyboard for the TS-1000 or ZX81

Programs: M-CODER - Basic compiler

ZXAS - Machine code assembler

ZXDB - Machine code disassembler/debugger

Loan/Mortgage Amorttizer

Books: Gateway to the ZX81 and ZX80

Getting Acquainted with your ZX81

The ZX81 Companion

13 Issues of Sync Magazine, Jan 1982 thru April 1984

All for only \$75.00!

Contact: Vic Lubieniecki

19030 Sherman

Lansing, IL 60438

312/895-6814

NOVEMBER C.A.T.U.G. MEETING

The November meeting of the Chicago Arera Timex Users Group will be at the Chicago residence of Jerry Cohler from 12:00 to 5:00 on the 14th of November. The Jerry's home is located at 5928 N. Rockwell, Chicago. For help with directions to the meeting, call Jerry at (312) 878-4606.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH: Take Route 41 south until it merges with I-94 (Edens Expwy). Continue south on I-94 and exit east on Petersen Avenue. Drive east on Petersen past Pulaski, Lincoln and California. Rockwell will be the fourth street past California. Turn south on Rockwell. Jerry's home is the sixth house on the right side of the street.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH: Take I-94 (Edens Expwy) north from I-90 (Kennedy Expwy) and exit east on Petersen Avenue. Drive east on Petersen past Pulaski, Lincoln and California. Rockwell will be the fourth street past California. Turn south on Rockwell. Jerry's home is the sixth house on the right side of the street.

TIMEX TIDBITS

It's been recently reported that Robotronics, makers of the Waferdrive, have gone bankrupt. The Rotronics Waferdrive for e Spectrum included dual high-speed tape drives with an S-232 interface and a centronics printer interface for about

\$150.00. However, you can now purchase these from Britain for 15 pounds or \$37.00! For more information, write to: Logic Sales Ltd., Leofric Square, Peterborough, TE15TN, Great Britain.

Ken Abramson reported in ZX Appeal that the color pack for the PC8300 computer will not work on the American Televisions. It was designed to work with the PAL (British) system. American Design Components, who distributes the PC8300, is currently attempting to resolve this problem. So, unless you enjoy electronics projects, avoid this product.

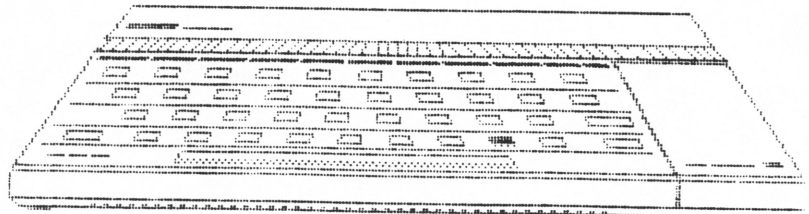
ZX Appeal also reported that Fred Nachbaur has developed an EPROM for the PC8300 that replaces the ROM and makes this machine fully compatible with TS-1000 software (both BASIC and machine code)! Not only that, but he has also managed to retain many of the enhanced features of the PC8300, such as: sound, flashing cursor, and inverse screen. It shouldn't be too long before these EPROMs are commercially available.

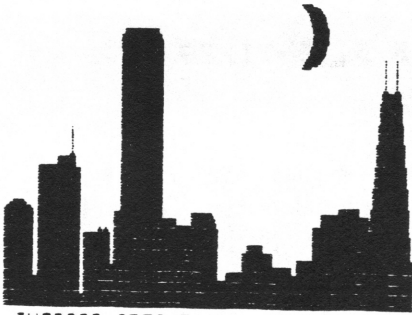
Bill Heberlein has a large quantity of three TS-1000 programs for sale at 50 cents each (there is an additional charge for shipping if mailed). Titles include: Frogger, The Budgeter, and The Gambler. Write to: Bill Heberlein, 5052 N. 91st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53225

Video tapes of the seminars at this year's Midwest Computer Fest are available from the Sinclair Milwaukee Users Group (SMUG). The cost for all 12 seminars is \$40.00. For more information write to: SMUG, P.O.Box 101, Butler, WI 53007.

Barry Carter reported in the Detroit Area Timex/Sinclair News that there is another QL telecommunications program available called Q_Link. It features autodial, redial, integral editor, Xmodem and ASCII file transfers, zoom printing for speed, and XON/OFF handshaking. It is suppose to configure to any modem and be available on either microdrive cartridge or diskette. It is 100% machine code and comes with three utilities: unsqueeze, delibrary, and filter. It is available for \$19.95 + \$2.00 S&H from Meta Productions, 726 West 17th, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5Z 1T9.

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